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Barbara Fisher  
Date: 26 March 2002

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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re PCT International Application of: )  
)  
VAN DEN BORN, Isaac, Cornelis, et al. )

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Int. Appl No.: PCT/EP00/09254 )  
)  
Int. Filing Date: 20 September 2000 )

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PROCESS TO REMOVE SOLID SLAG )  
PARTICLES FROM A MIXTURE OF SOLID )  
SLAG PARTICLES AND WATER )

26 March 2002

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115**

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Applicant request entry of the following amendments prior to consideration of the claims pending in the application.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:** Add the following abstract:

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Process to remove solid slag particles from a mixture of solid slag particles and water present in a quench zone, which quench zone is part of a process for the preparation of synthesis gas by partial combustion of finely dispersed solid carbon-containing fuel with an oxygen-containing gas, by a) discharging of the mixture from the quench zone to a first vessel, (b) discharging slag particles from the first vessel to a second vessel and discharging water poor in solid slag from the second vessel, which second vessel is located below and fluidly connected to said first vessel by means of an